

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An electronic mail transmitting apparatus for transmitting document data via electronic mail, said electronic mail transmitting apparatus comprising:

an application program for producing document data, said application program having a function to send a print instruction to print the document data; and

a printer driver activated by the print instruction of said application program, said printer driver having a function to convert the document data  
provided by said application program into a predetermined data format and a function to transmit the converted document data via electronic mail.

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2. The electronic mail transmitting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said printer driver transmits the converted document data by attaching to an electronic mail as an attachment file.

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3. The electronic mail transmitting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined data format is a bit-map image format.

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4. The electronic mail transmitting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined data format is a document reader software format.

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5. The electronic mail transmitting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined data format is a text format.

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6. The electronic mail transmitting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined data format is a page description language (PDL) format.

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10. A method for transmitting document data prepared by an application program via electronic mail, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transferring the document data to a printer driver by sending from said application program a print instruction for printing the document data;

converting the document data into a predetermined data format by said printer driver; and

10 transmitting the converted document data via electronic mail by an electronic mail transmitting function provided to said printer driver.

15 11. A processor readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform a function of a printer driver, comprising:

20 first program code means for designating document data to be transmitted via electronic mail, the document data being provided to said printer driver in accordance with a print instruction;

second program code means for converting the document data into a predetermined data format; and

25 third program code means for transmitting the converted document data via electronic mail.

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12. The processor readable medium as claimed  
in claim 11, wherein said second program code means  
includes program code means for selecting said  
predetermined data format from among a plurality of data  
5 formats.

10 *53* 13. The processor readable medium as claimed  
*51* in claim 11, wherein said third program code means  
includes program code means for inputting an electronic  
mail address of a remote party to which the document  
data is sent via electronic mail.

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